

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 18th March, 1861.

TRANSFERABLE AND REMITTABLE RAILWAY DEBENTURES.—Sealed tenders will be received at the office until noon of MONDAY, the 26th instant, for the purpose of advancing the whole or any portion of the sum of £100,000, by way of loan, on the railway debentures, on the terms and conditions specified in the notice published on the 6th instant, and inserted in the Government Gazette of this Colony on Friday, the 9th of March, 1861, and in the newspapers of the 10th inst., under the signature of the Colonial Secretary as Executive's command.

C. D. RIDDELL,

IN FERRY BOAT.—Tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned for the putting up of an iron ferry boat, just arrived by the Queen of the Isles, from Scotland, on the 17th inst., for the purpose of conveying passengers and goods across the river.

ENGINEERS.—Tenders are required for
marine engine and boiler, of about six-horse power,
the specification may be seen, and further particulars
on application to the undersigned, at noon, on or before
the 20th inst., at the residence of Mr. Wm. Marshall,
at the Mount William MARSHALL.

NEW ARRIVALS, OR PARTIES LEAVING
THE CITY—Money lent on all descriptions of portable
gold and silver articles, at 8 per cent. Home stores of
clothing and other goods, for sale by auction every day,
with free delivery, at all hours late in the afternoon.
Immediate sale of all descriptions of goods, clothing,
and furniture, at 50 per cent. off the retail value.
Immediate returns, if required. O. M. Pugh & Co., Station,

NOTICE—FESTER and MARTIN give notice to inform the citizens of Sydney that they are now prepared to furnish orders for the removal of night soil from any part of the shortest notice. Festering assures that from the very first of the year they received orders to bring the refuse by the City Commissioners, and that they have a trial, and are confident that they will be a sufficient guarantee of faith assured that that will be a sufficient guarantee of faith will be faithful and punctual by attended to. Application to JAMES MARTIN, at the rear of 275, New Kent-st.; JAMES MARTIN, No. 258, Pitt-st.

THE MOST ELEGANT CAMELS ever displayed in Sydney, and the only Froebels and Brewster's, BAUGH and MACDONNELL.

...to a splendid lot of new jewelry, just received
 ...consists of diamonds, pearls, rubies, emeralds,
 and by some of the most celebrated jewelers
 and P. Ventre Mages of great value; many
 and is looked for those who desire; also, amethysts, topaz,
 containing brooches of the most elegant and
 A large assortment of ladies' rings, not with diamonds
 only, but emeralds, and other gems.

MESSRS. A. BLAU and CO. have just unpacked
 a splendid assortment of MUSICAL BOXES, from the
 of the house of Nicolo, Frères, amongst which are some of the
 and sweetest of tones, with drums and bells. Also instru-
 ment of every variety of construction. Truets, Liqueurs, and Patis-
 sies. Toast Kinds, Butter Croquettes, Truets, Sausages, &c. From
 the house of 177, George-street.

SURE OF THIS, THAT A GOOD WATCH
IS A GOOD FRIEND.—JAMES FINLAYSON advises to be public that he has a first-rate stock of watches on hand at the present time, which, having been purchased from the best makers, are of the most reliable and most depressed state of the market, he can sell much below the market price. He is now offering a fine new gold from Australian gold, are much better in quality and cost, and as low in price. His colonial-made pocket, pen, brooches, signet rings, studs, etc., if not superior to any other goods, are at least as good as any other goods.

Watches and jewellery repaired on the premises, at moderate prices consistent with good workmanship, etc.

FURNITURE: Furniture! Furniture! Furniture! Parties in search of first-class Furniture are informed that the whole of W. DEAN'S stock, unequalled in point of strength and value is now being sold at cost.

IRON BEDSTEADS! Iron Bedsteads! Iron Bedsteads! A few of our only remain's to be disposed of at very low figures. Early application is necessary to secure a bargain.

Address: DEAN'S New Beasted Warehouse, Market-Edinburgh.

WINTOWN — Mr. CHARLES FALLICK has been

to be placed in the above locality, which will be delivered by the members of the *Harold* staff, parties desirous of becoming subscribers to the *Harold* from this office, please send their names to Mr. FALLICE. Advertisements will be read on Mr. F. up to six-past 4 in the afternoon, in all cases, and no subscription will be paid for in advance.—*Harold Office*, 7th list.

D.R.—Subscribers to the *Sydney Morning Herald* are respectfully informed that the *GEORGE FOLKE* has appointed News and Advertising Agent for the above. Parties wishing to subscribe to the *Herald* will please apply to Mr. Folke. Mr. Folke is authorized to collect all outstanding "up account" up to the 31st December, 1854, due to the *Herald*.
By Order, JOHN FAIRBAIR, Proprietor.

PRATT'S DEVONIAN CREAM. This is one of the best
creams extant, for strengthening and promoting the growth
of hair.

It keeps the hair from falling off
It greatly embellishes its appearance
It prevents it from turning prematurely grey
It is recommended by PRATT, the famous and family chemist,
and sold in Sydney, Melbourne, and by Messrs. James
Mathis and Sons, 114, Pitt-street; Mr. Abraham, Jeweller,
in Royal Hotel, George-street; Mr. Watson, Druggist,
in George, Lane; Messrs. G. and J. Whitlock, by Mr. James
Mathis, 38, Broad Street; and by Mr. Dr. de la Roche,
Apothecary, in the Strand; and in bottles, at 2s. 6d. and 1s. 6d. each.

UNPAWEDDED REMEDY. - HOLLOWAY'S
THORP - Surprising cure of a confirmed Asthma after five
 years suffering.
 Following testimonial has been sent to Professor Holloway
 named Middleton, of Scotland-road, Liverpool -
 "Your pills have been the means, under Providence, of
 me to escape from a most distressing and dangerous
 the whole of that period I suffered the most violent
 of asthma, of frequently of several weeks' duration,
 with a violent cough, and a continued spitting of phlegm
 and black blood, and I was so weak and exhausted that I
 for any of the active duties of my profession, and I
 of the most eminent medical men of this town, but they
 gave me the slightest relief. After a weary I think
 and in about six months I had received a perfect cure
 of asthma, totally eradicating the disease."

my, sir, your obedient servant,
1875, 1885. (Signed) H. MIDDLETON.

PERMANENT CURE OF A DISEASED LIVER OF MANY YEARS' DURATION.

of a letter from Mr. G. Smith, chemist, Yeovil, to Frobisher Holloway.

Sir,—In this district your pills commenced a more severe case than any other proprietary medicine before me. As a proof of their efficacy in liver and bile ailments I may mention a case of mine—A man of this town, with whom I am personally acquainted, was a severe sufferer from disease of the liver and digestive organs; his medical attendant assured me that he could do nothing for him, and he was finally able to survive many months. This

I remain, dear sir, yours truly,
(Signed) J. GAMIS.

my health would be entirely broken and whatever I was allowed to do in my country hospital, where I had the best medical treatment the institution afforded, all of which proved of no avail, and would not be better than I went in. I was then advised to try Opium, and by persuading with them to use it, I was able to resume my occupation, and although a considerable time elapsed, I have felt no return whatever of the pain.

I am, sir, your obliged servant,
(Signed) W. MOON.

Per 8, 1852.

TRAUMATIC CURE OF DROPTV, AFTER SUFFERING FOR
18 MONTHS.

of a letter from Mr. G. Briggs, chemist, Colo. dated

I have much pleasure in informing you of a most successful cure of Dropsy, recently effected by your valuable medicine. Captain Jackson, of this place, was afflicted with a dropy of eight or ten months, to such an extent that he was unable to walk, and limbs to be much swollen, and the water oozed so from him, he said, so that a daily change of apparel became necessary, notwithstanding the various remedies tried, and he was almost despondent, and had no hopes of recovery. He commenced using your pills, by which, and a strict attention to the directions he was effectually cured, and his health fully re-established. If you deem this worthy of publicity at liberty to use it. I am, sir, yours respectfully,
(Signed) G. BAZOT.

These celebrated pills are wonderfully efficacious in the haemorrhoids.

complaints
on the skin
complaints
retention of the bowels
eruptive
ery
the
irregularities
of all kinds
the
Jaundice
Liver complaints
Lumbago
Piles
Rheumatism
Retention of urine
Scrofula, or king's evil
Sore throats
Stones and gravel
Secondary symptoms
Tish morieux
Tumours
Ulcers
Venereal affections
Worms of all kinds
whenever

At the establishment of Professor Holloway, 244, Strand, (formerly Rye) London, and by all respectable druggists and in medicine throughout the civilized world, in pots at 1s. 6d. each.

It is a very considerable saving in taking the larger dose.

Directions for the guidance of patients are affixed to each box.

SEE ADVERTISEMENTS for insertion in the
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD will be received by Mr.
STANLEY, Chemist, Pyramont-street; and Messrs. H. B.
Curry Bros., North Head Road, until 4 o'clock in the

to be made to the undersigned. None but parties
city, and who are competent to amount a first-class
copy. **ANDREW BADGERY**, Bradwood, 18th

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, from Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.
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 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, from Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.

DEPARTURES.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.

PROPOSED DEPARTURES.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.

CLEARANCES.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.

CHARTERERS.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.

COASTERS.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.

EXPEDIENTS.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.

SHIP MAILS.
 March 23.—H. W. R. Tarn, 6 tons, Captain Chalmers, to Newcastle, via Port Jackson, at 10 a.m.
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observed and overcast a fair prospectus than the Reform League has been called to produce. Mr. HEMPHREYS—who might improve upon the last syllable of his name in honour of the first—being a leading humbug—read the prospectus, and avowed himself prepared to issue tickets of membership at 2s. 6d. month with participation of all the benefits of the institution, meaning the admission to lectures, &c.; but there was not one ticket issued or applied for! Such are the "slights" which patient merit from the unworthy take.

We have rarely read a document more wordy and weak than the prospectus of the Reform League. With much matter worn out, with old grievances long ago redressed, and dragged from the dusty repositories of political untruths—much that is intelligible, much that is unintelligible, we have a few objects proposed which the existing legislature has addressed itself to accomplish, and which may be considered certain. These small reforms confer their duties with the idea that they have made great discoveries when they announce, in cloudy language, doctrines which are held sacred in every school of politician; and when measures, everywhere only a question of time, are secured, they fancy they did it all! We can imagine no reason why Ballarat should be the theatre of a constitutional agitation for general political ameliorations unless to show a contrast to its recent riot and bloodshed. Some portions of the prospectus are extremely comical, and may form physical problems of curious solution.

"Manhood suffrage,"—not universal, as the old cry. What is meant by this new form is not very clearly shown, but it belongs to the "convention for the protection of the rights of women" to explode the treason. The true import of this political status involves questions a revising barrister would not be able to settle. Manhood is a quality, like womanhood, but not to be very easily brought up to the poll, and protected by ballot.

We would almost wager that the sixth article, for we pass over the no property qualification and payment of members, as Mr. HEMPHREYS' own, who has no idea of submitting to resign Dr. OWEN all the honours of membership, and no notion of serving for the honour only; we dare wager that the sixth article is the work of Mr. IRELAND, the legal adviser. It is precisely what might be expected from an Irishman constitution maker—"equal electoral districts on the basis of population"—as the people should be represented in proportion to their number and intelligence. "Bravo! The division of a 'floating population' into electoral districts would be in itself a task, but much more so the electoral division of 'intelligence.' Thus, the wise men of Gotham would annex a much larger representation than the mere multitude; but who would dare to point out where that Gotham is? Perhaps the President! For the present game of these most absurd and sordid agitators is evidently done. There is something stirring in a real riot, and the resistance to a real wrong awakens the sympathy when it does not wholly command the judgment of generous minds; but the dull, stupid violence of men who have no enthusiasm in their own cause, or distinctness in their own purpose; who merely expect to live by their succession of dupes, is simply disgusting. Their present position is the best vindication of Victoria we have seen. True reform is a rational sober thing, and will not be found in pot houses; and true patriotism dreads the alliance of agitators, who have degraded the cause of colonial freedom.

WHILE the land defence of Sydney and of the country generally, is most effectually to be provided for by the enrolment of a national militia, it is not to be supposed that a militia alone is all that is required for the protection of this colony. A land force would serve to protect the city from any enemy who might have succeeded in effecting a landing either in Port Jackson, or at some other harbour, north or south; nor is the contingency so remote as to be imagined. If the enemy would certainly bring a sufficient body of troops to act on shore, independent of his ships; and if his object was to surprise the city, he could better effect it by landing at some of the small ports, such as Botany Bay, immediately to the south of Sydney, rather than by forcing his way up the harbour. The necessity, therefore, of providing a land force, in addition to the batteries and other means of defence seaward, must be self-evident.

But, doubtless, our naval defences are of primary importance, inasmuch as an enemy must make his approach from seaward, let him land where he will. Nor is it in our power to maintain a fleet at sea sufficiently strong to guard our shores from invasion. For centuries to come, perhaps, we shall not be powerful enough to maintain the national naval supremacy in these seas, or like the mother-country, be able to dispense with "bulwarks and towers along the steep"—relying upon our wooden walls alone for protection. Our capacity is limited to measures of passive defence, and though we may not be able to maintain the mastery of these seas, we may yet defend our sea ports from actual aggression.

The various schemes put forward for the naval defence of this colony, the only feasible one seems to us to be, a system of gun-boats, in all the ports and harbours along the coast. Such a system is the cheapest, most efficient, and the best adapted to our natural circumstances. Gun-boats, it is unnecessary to remind the professional reader, are a most formidable description of force, and have been found most useful for the defence of an exposed seaboard. They are easily manoeuvred and quickly manned, and may be managed by volunteers with greater advantage than larger vessels. A few experienced gunners and seamen in each would be sufficient to serve the guns and execute the necessary evolutions. Constructed of a light draught, yet of strength and solidity, and armed with one or two long 32-pounders, half-a-dozen gunboats are capable of giving very serious annoyance to the largest frigate; and should the latter be disabled by the loss of a spar or other vital part, she would be almost entirely at the mercy of her puny opponents, who from their size are not very easily hit by the guns of a large ship. The Danes and Swedes have brought this description of force to the greatest perfection, as we found to our cost, during our naval contests with those powers. Every headland and creek in the Northern Seas used to conceal its gun-boat, who, sweeping out at night or during a calm, were often successful in capturing British merchant ships and even, on some occasions, ships of war. In 1808, the Arica, a sixty-four gun frigate was only saved from capture by a small gun-boat flotilla, off the coast of Norway, by the darkness of the night, and the springing up of a gale, after having suffered very severe losses.

The harbour of Port Jackson ought to be provided with not less than six or eight gun-boats of the largest size, and armed with heavy long guns; and every seaport along the coast ought to have at least one or two such boats available for its defence. In Sydney, in addition to the gun-boats and batteries, there ought to be one steam-sloop, of sufficient size and considerable armament, constantly on service—which might act conjointly with the boats, and carry volunteer boarders to the enemy's ships.

For the manning of the gunboats and steamers there need not be, on ordinary occasions, many men required. But all seamen, watermen, and others, connected with the shipping of the port ought to be compelled to serve upon emergency, on the same conditions as the land militia; though for purposes of drill and practice it would not be necessary to call them out for more than two or three hours every week or fortnight. Five or six hundred men would, perhaps, be found sufficient to man all the naval force, and there should be no difficulty in raising this number, were proper measures taken.

We have deemed it our duty to point out, generally, what steps should be taken to complete the defences of this colony, trusting that the subject will meet with more attention than it has hitherto done, from the constituted authorities. We are no alarmists, nor do we anticipate any immediate danger. At the same time let it be understood that it is not easy to provide a disciplined force, either on sea or land—and that it is better to go to some expense in providing for the danger than to be found unprepared to meet it. The time will shortly come, and even now approaches, when the soldiers and ships of England will be required to fight her own battles at home. We shall then be left to our own resources, and will be compelled, either to defend ourselves, or to submit to the first brigand or pirate that comes to Sydney in sufficient force.

NEW ZEALAND.
 From Nelson, we have papers to the 1st, and from Canterbury to the 10th. The chief items of intelligence will be found in our columns.

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 From Auckland, we have papers to the 1st, and from the Bay of Islands to the 10th. The chief items of intelligence will be found in our columns.

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THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.
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 SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1885.

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"Morning Herald" Printing Office, Lower George-street,
Saturday, March 24, 1866.

The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 5544.—VOL. XXVI.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1855

SECOND EDITION. PRICE SIXPENCE.

LATER ENGLISH NEWS.

THE *Telegraph* arrived at 11 o'clock this forenoon, with English news to the 6th January, brought to Melbourne by the *Lightning*.

The assault on Sebastopol had not yet taken place, though great preparations were being made for it. The Russians have remained inactive since the affair of Inkermann, though Prince Menshikov had been reinforced by thirty thousand men, including large bodies of cavalry and artillery.

General Liprandi was manoeuvring near Balaklava with 40,000 men. Another battle was daily expected.

Sir De Lacy Evans has resigned his command and returned to England. Gen. Adams is dead of his wounds. Lord Raglan has been severely attacked by the *Times* for his supineness and ill arrangements.

An universal discontent prevails at home at the conduct of the war, and the inefficiency of Ministers.

The dissolution of the Cabinet was expected. The Czar has issued another manifesto, breathing war and defiance.

The greater part of Omar Pasha's army has been landed at Eupatoria. It is destined to cut off the communication between Sebastopol and Perekop.

There is continued depression in the English funds, consols closing at 88 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Parliament was opened by the Queen in person on the 12th December.

Progress of the Siege —OF— SEBASTOPOL.

(From the *Liverpool Journal*, January 6th.)

THE *Monitor* of Thursday, contains a telegraphic despatch, dated December 27th, from the *Chambre d'Affaires* of France at Constantinople, in these words:—

"General Canrobert writes to me on the 25th. We shall very soon be in a position to assume the offensive. We are renovating our condition much faster and more effectively than the enemy can do with his. We are full of confidence."

The *Monitor* also contains a longer despatch from General Canrobert, dated the 23rd. He says:—

"In spite of the bad weather, we continue as much as possible the work of enclosing the place with our trenches; and although the rains make the movement of the vehicles difficult, all the siege works are growing to completeness and consolidation. The two armies reciprocally assist each other. I have placed at Lord Raglan's disposal a number of horses for removing his sick to Balaklava, and teams for the conveyance of his supplies. These exchanges contribute to keep up excellent relations and perfect cordiality between the two armies."

The general states that, on the 21st ult., the country on which the Russians had fallen back was reconnoitred by a brigade of French cavalry in one direction, and by a party of Highlanders and Zouaves in another. The result appeared to be that, on the left bank of the Tchernaya, the enemy had only a few soldiers posted to observe the allied position at a distance. The general remarks a movement as evidently being produced in the Russian army, the probable cause of which is the debarkation of the Turkish troops still going on at Eupatoria. The despatch states that the number of sick had slightly increased, in consequence of the constant dampness; but the sanitary state of the army was satisfactory, and the moral spirit of the troops perfect. The soldiers had been heavily inconvenienced by the rains, but there had been no cold weather.

As we (*Times*, Thursday) have lately dwelt so much on the disorganization of our army in the East, and the apparently needless loss of life immediately arising from it, we are glad of an opportunity of presenting the other side of the picture, terrible as it may be. That other side, —that compensation for this suffering and mortality—is, that on the testimony of a perfectly competent and impartial authority, the siege at the last departure of the post, that is the 13th, was so advanced as to leave hardly a doubt that something decisive would soon be done. We have repeatedly been informed that an assault was to take place about Christmas, but the information was coupled with the request that we say nothing to indicate the quarter or the day of attack. We believe that we may now say that on the 13th it was the general belief, that on or about Christmas-day the allies would open fire from 300 pieces, with such a supply of ammunition as would enable them to continue without stopping for forty-eight hours, after which they would assault from both French and British positions with great prospect of success. Thus the assault would probably be made on the 28th. There was some chance, indeed, of a Russian attack in anticipation of ours, but from Russian sources we learn that nothing had occurred up to the 26th. On the same authority, we learn that on the 13th the men who got their warm clothing were in good spirits, and, though no reliance can be placed on a transient gleam of fine weather, the health of the army was expected to improve.

It cannot, however, be concealed for a moment that, on the most favourable supposition, the capture of the city, the dockyard, arsenal, and the quarantine fort would only commence another phase of the difficulty. We should still have to take the northern forts, to hold Balaklava, or, effect, without loss, our retreat from it, and be besieged in our turn. We shall have entire command of the sea, and the Russians be entirely excluded from it. The heavy material of the siege, which we have carried by the easiest, cheapest, and quickest of all conveyances—in ships, they will have to drag through the mud many hundred miles, by means of transports that will continually perish in the using, even more than our

ships—that is, the rude arabas and oxen of the country. With the city in our possession, and with our fleet hovering along the whole coast of the Euxine, it certainly will not be easy for the Russians to keep an army in the field near Sebastopol. Yet such a position is one of the boldest ever attempted in the history of war. The occupation of the Russian capital itself, the conversion of its palaces into barracks, and the distribution upon Russia of the numerous insults it has heaped in its day on all the cities that have fallen within its power, could not be a more irritating spectacle than the occupation or destruction by the allies of those gigantic batteries raised with such labour and cost for the conquest of the East. The whole military population of Russia would be turned southward in one vast current, to overflow and swallow up our comparatively small armies. New levies would be extorted, so long as there remained a man who could stand under arms. In spite, therefore, of the palpable advantage we should derive at once from the possession of Sebastopol, and the exchange from misery to comfort, and from constant exposure to something like security, the new holders of the city would find their berth a warm one, and would hardly have time to turn round before they found the Russians once more upon them.

On the most favourable supposition, therefore we see no reason to qualify the opinion we have ventured to express, that the conduct of the war requires certain military qualities which have not been hitherto shown in it.

A despatch from Vienna, published in the *Paris*, *Paris* journal, says:—"On December 22nd there was a great deal of snow at Sebastopol, and it was very cold. Both sides were preparing for a battle. Omar Pasha was expected."

The latest news from the Crimea is by the *Ganges*, which left Constantinople on the 25th December.

Eighteen battalions of Turks had disembarked at Eupatoria. When the remainder, of the 30,000 shall have arrived great operations are to be commenced.

The Duke of Cambridge had received a visit from the Sultan.

Prince Napoleon Bonaparte is said to have received orders to return to France immediately. His recall is arrived on the plea of bad health, having, since his arrival at Constantinople, had a fit of gout.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Major-General Henry William Adams, C.B., which took place on the 19th ultimo, at Scutari, from the effects of the wounds which he received in the battle of Inkermann on the 5th of Nov.

A despatch of the 13th ultimo, from Lord Raglan, has appeared in the *Gazette*. It merely furnishes the list of casualties from the 6th to the 10th. Total—7 rank and file killed; 2 sergeants, 10 rank and file, wounded; 6 rank and file missing.

The Russian army outside of Sebastopol amounted, when Sir De Lacy Evans left, according to his estimation, to between 20,000 and 30,000 men. Let us suppose 30,000 men to have arrived, and Liprandi will have nearly 70,000 men under his orders. With this army supported by the army of Sebastopol, he will probably make another attack upon the Allies. This, in fact, has become a necessity, for otherwise Sebastopol must fall at once.

A private letter from an officer on board one of the French ships near Sebastopol, dated the 13th December, speaks of the re-commencement of the bombardment and the assault as imminent. The cannonade was expected to take place towards the end of December. The ships were to take part in the attack. The number of batteries armed and well supplied was, according to his letter, 28. The storming was to commence early in the morning after the first day's cannonade. Few in the French camp seemed to have a doubt as to the result.

A despatch from Admiral Hamelin to the Minister of War, dated the Crimea, December 22, says, that besides 4700 troops which had arrived between the 13th and 18th of that month, 2170 had also arrived at Kamiesch on the 20th. Reinforcements had likewise reached Constantinople. Every night the Russians attempted sorties, but were always vigorously repulsed.

Under date of St. Petersburg, January 2, we learn that a despatch had been received there from Prince Menshikov, announcing that nothing remarkable had taken place at Sebastopol between the 20th and 26th of December, with the exception of two sorties on the 21st. In one of these sorties 11 officers and 33 soldiers were made prisoners, and a considerable number killed. In consequence of the bad weather, the siege operations were progressing slowly.

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, DEC. 2.—We were much gratified and pleased to-day by a visit from the naval commander-in-chief, Vice-admiral Dundas, who rode through the camp. Notwithstanding his recent illness he sat on his horse gallantly and well for a sailor; but one of ours said, "Small blame to him, for when a captain on half-pay he commanded the *Hungerford* troop of Yeomany Cavalry." However, his presence was welcomed, and we had no doubt it had reference to the bringing up of supplies to the camp. We should be glad if he would come amongst us more frequently, and enliven us with that good-humoured smile and jolly laugh; but, of a truth, I suppose he prefers sailing to playing at soldiers.

The *Novelliste*, of Marseilles, publishes a letter from the theatre of war, of which the following is an extract:—"The troops are in good health, and they do not allow their spirits to be cast down either by the deluge of rain, by the hurricanes, by the hard duties of the trenches, or by that *stata quo* which is so contrary to the impetuosity of the French soldier. Without entering into the details of the diseases which, added to the fire of the enemy, have attacked our troops, I can give you the exact account of the movement of our ambulances. From the 10th October to the 30th of November, from 8000 to 9000 sick and wounded entered them. 4000 have died, 1500 have returned to their duty, and 6000 have been sent to the hospitals at Constantinople. This, therefore, is an average of less than 3000 per month, more than one half of whom rejoined their ranks after a month's absence, and which reduces the total of the losses of the effective strength of the army to 1500 per month, that is to say, a loss of about two per cent. per month on our effective strength, which is a trifling loss when we take into account the arrival of fresh contingents."

Russian despatches from the Crimea, of the 23rd ult., show that nothing important had occurred before Sebastopol to that date. From the 16th November to the 18th December the allies had received reinforcements to the extent of 24,000, including Turks. The St. Louis was encountered at Cape Matapan on the 14th, with 1,000 French troops on board. Twenty-five transports, with reinforcements and supplies, had passed Cape St. Ange in five days, with a fair wind.

There are at present in course of preparation at the arsenal at Malta, a number of shells to be used in blowing up the Russian ships sunk at the mouth of the harbour of Sebastopol. These shells are of different sizes, some constructed to contain 250 lbs., others 500 lbs., and others even 1,000 lbs. of gunpowder. When required for operation a copper wire will be attached to each in connection with a galvanic battery, and the shell dropped into the hold of the vessel.

The Rev. Denis Sheahan, one of the Roman Catholic chaplains with the army in the East, writes to the *Tablet*:—"Common fairness obliges me to notice an observation which occurs in your London correspondent's letter of November 8th, to the effect that the Catholic chaplains to the British army in the East have been obstructed in the discharge of their duties, especially in the administration of the sacraments. Certainly no such obstruction is within my own experience, and I am confident that had my late colleague, Mr. Wheble, met with any such, it would have been so remarkable a contrast to the usual co-operation and encouragement he met with, that he would not have failed to mention the circumstance to me in the course of conversation. Nor have my new colleagues found any hindrance to the exercise of their ministry."

RUSSIA.
ST. PETERSBURG, December 26.—An imperial manifesto has been issued. It contains the following passages:—"Our duty as a Christian forbids us to desire a further shedding of blood, and certainly we will not reject any proposition and conditions of peace, provided they be compatible with the dignity of our empire and the welfare of our subjects. But another and a no less sacred duty bids us in this obstinate struggle, to exert every effort and prepare for every sacrifice which the greatness of the means of attack brought against us demands. We will all, if necessary, show a bold front to our enemies, with sword in hand, and the cross in our hearts."

The admirals of the Russian Baltic fleet, and the generals having command in the large towns on the shores of the Gulf of Finland, have been summoned to the ministry of war at St. Petersburg, where a number of councils have been held.

It has been decided that the fortification of the coast towns must be strengthened, and that entrenched camps, each large enough to receive an Infantry division, must be formed.

A system of entrenched camps, which is to be carried into execution, will extend from Cronstadt to the most of the strategic points in Poland.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg*, of the 26th December, announces the arrival at Gatchina of their Imperial Highnesses the Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael. They left Sebastopol on the 15th December. The health of the Empress has improved.

By an order of the day of December 18th, his Majesty the Emperor, desirous of manifesting his gratitude for the exemplary bravery, the zeal, and the signal services of all the land and sea troops forming the garrison of Sebastopol since the 25th of September last, has deigned to order that each month of this service in the said garrison shall be counted as one year of service, with all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging. His Majesty the Emperor has deigned to extend this favour similarly to all the officers in the civil service that form part of that garrison.

Political persons at St. Petersburg fully believe that the King of Sweden is determined to abandon all idea of neutrality, and, whenever hostilities recommence in the North, to take an active part with the allies. A similar resolve is expected from the King of Denmark, particularly since the fall of the Oersted cabinet, which was favourable to the Russians.

WARSAW, DECEMBER 3.—To-day Field-marshal Paakiewitch left Warsaw for St. Petersburg. Despatches from Odessa state that Russian troops of the line continue to arrive there. The weather was bad; two companies of Russian troops and a transport of forty waggons conveying wounded men had perished by the cold.

The number of Russian troops now in Bessarabia is calculated at 150,000 men.

The Berlin journals announce that nearly 100 German surgeons have been enlisted by Russian legations for military hospital duties, and that they are to assemble there in a few days, in order to be provided with the necessary passports and directions.

TURKEY.
Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has addressed a circular to all the British consuls in the Levant, informing them of the important decrees issued by the Sultan for effecting various salutary reforms in the administration of the laws; doing away with a number of long-existing abuses, and abolishing the trade in slaves in Georgia and Circassia; and urging on the consular agents to give every assistance by advice and exhortations to the Turkish authorities, who, in carrying into execution the said decrees, will, in all probability, have to contend with long-established prejudices and national traditions.

Later accounts have been received from Trebizond, which represent the state of affairs in that quarter as not so positively bad as represented a few days ago, though a great deal of alarm evidently exists there. The *Courier de Marseille* has letters from thence down to the 5th of December, by which it appears that the Russian army had advanced to Tokmak-Kale, by the routes of Diadin and Uch-Kishak. The greatest consternation prevailed at Erzerum, though the garrison of that city had been reinforced by 8000 Turks; but these forces were scarcely organized, and their good conduct in the field was a matter of doubt. The Russians had organized a native militia in various parts of Circassia, offered by Mukovitch. Columns of this militia had made their appearance at several points. Reinforcements had been demanded from Batoum, and were impatiently expected.

AUSTRIA.—THE FOUR POINTS.
The Paris correspondent of the *Chronicle* gives an account of what took place at the Vienna conference of the 28th ultimo, and adds, "Two days" afterwards, the 30th, Prince Gortschakoff demanded a new conference. On that occasion, he, in turn, presented to the representatives of the three Powers a note which gave his interpretation of the four guarantees, and which, at the same time that it differed in some respects from the interpretations of the representatives of the allied Powers, did not differ very considerably on several points. On presenting this note, the representatives of the three Powers replied that the allied governments having already fixed the conditions upon which peace would be granted, their representatives could not depart from those conditions, and that they, therefore, could not either receive the note of Prince Gortschakoff, or discuss the terms of it. Prince Gortschakoff having insisted his note was ultimately received *à titre de renseignements* as to the disposition of the Russian Government. But he was requested expressly to understand that his reception of the note would make no change in the official position of the question; that the conditions insisted upon by the Allied Powers, as set down in the interpretation of the four guarantees remained entire; and that it would be of those conditions that Russia would have to declare her acceptance or refusal. Prince Gortschakoff then repeated his declaration that he would be obliged to refer the matter to St. Petersburg; and he promised to give in the answer of his Government that day fortnight—that is to say, on the 13th of January. The Government believes the continuance of the war more inevitable than ever.

The *Press* of Vienna of the 30th ultimo states, upon what it considers good authority, that Prince Gortschakoff is making efforts to cause a protocol to be drawn up and signed by the representatives of all the Powers, solemnly recognising the integrity of Russia.

PRUSSIA.
The *Brunswick Gazette* of the 28th ultimo says:—"Some great event may be shortly expected in Prussia; all the chiefs of the Russian party are hastening to Berlin, evidently obeying some *mot d'ordre*."

FRANCE.
The loan is for 500,000,000, or £20,000,000, in a four-and-a-half and a three per cent. stock, at the price of 92½ per 100. For the former, and 65½ for the latter. Subscriptions will be received of from 10¢ and upwards. Ten per cent. will be required to be paid into the Treasury on all subscriptions, and the remainder in eighteen equal monthly instalments, commencing the 7th of March, 1855, and ending the 7th of August, 1856. Instalments paid up in advance will be received less 4 per cent. discount. *France* will be arranged at a later period. The dividends on the Four-and-a-Half per cent. will date from the 2nd of September, 1854; and on the Three per cent. from the 22nd of December, 1854, and will be calculated on the entire capital of the loan instead of that portion only which will be paid up. The subscription lists were opened on Wednesday, and will close on the afternoon of the 14th instant.

Wednesday was the first day for receiving subscriptions to the new loan. The number of applicants did not amount to a fourth of what it was on the first day for the loan of March. This may, however, have been partly owing to the state of the weather, which has been such as to cool all but a very warm enthusiasm. The funds, however, have improved a little, in consequence chiefly of the receipt of information by the Credit Mobilier Company from Vienna, that the contract for the purchase of the railroads of the State had been definitely signed. It is inferred from this that the deputation from the subscribers had received the most satisfactory and positive assurances as to the intentions of Austria to make common cause with the Western Powers.

The scarcity of corn in France has drawn attention to a new plant, recently introduced from China, which promises to supersede, to a certain extent, the use of beetroot in the manufacture of sugar and the distillation of alcohol. It is called the *surgho*, or *holcus saccharatus*. Beetroot contains from 8 to 10 per cent. of sugar; the *surgho* produces from 16 to 20 per cent., from which 8 or 10 per cent. of pure alcohol, fit for all industrial and domestic purposes, can be produced.

About 5000 men were embarked for the East at Toulon and Marseilles in the course of last week. The two war battalions of the 49th Regiment of the line in garrison at Nîmes have been ordered to the Crimea.

The Cyndical Chamber of the Stockbrokers of Paris has subscribed 18,000¢ in favour of the *Comité* of the Chamber of Notaries 3,000¢, the Chamber of Solicitors 3,000¢, and the auctioneers 1,000.

ITALY.
TURIN, DEC. 28.—In yesterday's sittings of the Chamber of Deputies, the report of the committee on the bill for the suppression of convents was read by M. Cadorna. On the motion that a day be fixed for its discussion, M. Devry asked what steps had been taken by the cabinet at the Court of Rome respecting this bill? Count Cavour, president of the council, replied that no steps whatever of the nature alluded to had been taken, as the government did not think the Court of Rome had any right to meddle with questions which the civil power alone was competent to decide. He then stated that it was desirable the bill were discussed as soon as possible, as there were financial measures connected with it. The Minister of the Interior stated that the tax which would be laid upon archbishops and chapters would produce about 700,000¢. The chamber then fixed the 4th of January for the discussion of the bill.

Letters from Rome state that the French army is not to quit that city till the early part of January. Their line of march is to coast the sea, but so as to avoid Leghorn, and, of course, also Florence and Turin.

AMERICA.
THE United States mail steam-ship Union, Captain Adams, arrived off Cowes on Sunday evening, en route from New York to Havre. The Union left New York on the 16th ult.

The steam-ship Prometheus arrived at New Orleans on the 14th ult., with California dates to the 24th November, 160 passengers, and

one million in treasure. The general news is unimportant. From Oregon the accounts of the atrocities of the Indians are melancholy. The snakes had attacked an emigrant train, and murdering was an emigrant train, and murdering was an emigrant train. A very large meeting was held at New York on the evening of the 15th ult., for the purpose of adopting an address to Mr. Smith O'Brien, congratulating him on his return from Van Diemen's Land to Europe, and endorsing his political principles and honesty. The Hon. Robert Emmett and Judge O'Connor addressed the meeting, as did also Mitchell, Meagher, O'Gorman, and many of the "fellows" of 1848. Three most enthusiastic cheers were given for the Emperor of Russia, whilst the Queen of England and many of the statesmen were treated with little respect. About 4000 people were present.

Two of the most important cases that have ever been adjudicated in the American courts were decided on the 15th ultimo by Judge Ingalls. One relates to the steamer *Alps*, now a transport of the British government in the East. She was seized for smuggling, and bonded for 75,000 dollars. E. Cunard and Samuel Nicholson being the sureties. The charge was sustained, and the vessel, therefore, declared forfeited to the United States. The other case was that of the steamer *Washington*, of the Bremen line, also seized for smuggling. She was bonded for 80,000 dollars—Shepherd Knapp and Christian B. Sand sureties. In this instance the libel was sustained in its principal points.

The *New York Herald* announces the fact that additional steam communication is being prepared between Europe and New York, the spirited speculator being Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, whose visit to England some short time since in his fine American yacht *North Star* will not have yet been forgotten.

The markets are without change.

BRAZIL AND THE RIVER PLATE.
The South American and General Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Imperator*, Captain Brown, arrived in the Mersey on Thursday afternoon, with advices from Rio Janeiro to the 1st December, Bahia to the 6th, Pernambuco to the 9th, St. Vincent to the 19th, and Lisbon to the 30th December. She has brought only a nominal amount of specie—about £175—but has £25,820 worth of diamonds on freight. She has also brought home 30 passengers.

On the 6th of November, about 700 men belonging to the Rosas faction invaded Buenos Ayres from Santa Fe, but were totally defeated on the 8th. The territory has been declared in a state of siege. The news is satisfactory. The invaders have nowhere found any sympathies, and their appeals have been met with silent contempt. After the *placazo* is completely reformed, and in all departments, the government, assuredly, and the police, we see a unanimity and energy that leave no doubt that the invasion will be crushed in the bud.

The news from the Brazil is unimportant, and the commercial intelligence is, on the whole, favourable.

By the steamer *Lady Jocelyn*, we are in possession of advices from Bahia to the 2nd December, twelve days later than by the steamer *Great Western*. The commercial accounts are favourable. In consequence of the rainy weather, the supplies of coffee from the interior had fallen off considerably. Hides were in improved demand, and prices were advancing. There was no tapioca offered in the market. A fresh demand having sprung up for Pissava, prices were higher. Tobacco continued to be neglected. Freight to the United Kingdom nominal at 57s 6d to 60s per ton for orders; to London, 50s to 55s; and to Liverpool, 40s to 45s per ton for sugar, and 3d per lb. for cotton.

COPENHAGEN, DEC. 31.—M. Scheel and Count Plessen have refused the portfolio of Foreign Affairs.

WEST INDIAN MAIL.—The West India mail has arrived, brought by the steam-ship *Atrato*, which reached Southampton on Sunday. His Excellency Sir H. Barkly opened the Jamaica Legislature on the 28th of November in a long speech, remarking that, while the colony had suffered for some years past from several causes, he did not despair of a vast change being effected in time to come, if enterprise, intelligence, and perseverance were rightly applied to the moral, social, and financial improvement of the colony. On the 7th December, Mr. Westmorland, a member of the executive government, stated that a considerable deficit had occurred from the ordinary sources of revenue for the present year, which could only be met by increased taxation. It was therefore intended to propose to increase the duties on imported spirits, oil, gunpowder, and tobacco, and on unenumerated articles from 4 per cent. to 12½ per cent. Resolutions to this effect were proposed and carried the following day. The islands generally were tolerably healthy, and the cane fields looked promising.

THE "TIMES" AND THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.
The case is so flagrant, so manifest to friend and foe, and so confessed and proclaimed to all the world, that it would be ridiculous to slur over the fact that the British army is found to be no army at all in the general military sense of the word. It is a mob of brave men, not more than a mob, and rather less, inasmuch as it is evidently commanded by those who should not command it, and so deprived of its rude natural efficiency. All the accounts that we publish, and many more that, for one reason or other, we do not publish, but which are in our volumes, loose papers, and elastic bands all about us, agree in this—that the organisation of the army is either none, or worse than none. For the last few weeks we have so often had to say this, that it only remains to bring up the sad story to the latest date. The long expected, and much prayed for draught, so hardly spared by this country, arrives at Balaklava. A boy aide-de-camp, as a veteran officer complains, shows the promptness of his folly, by ordering it immediately to disembark, without proper clothing, in the rain, to march through miles of sludge to the pool assigned for its quarters, and to bivouac, in that case, some in tents, some under the canopy of heaven.

The next day—some equally comfortable, equally thoughtless malapert sends it to the trenches, and in ten days, or a fortnight at the latest, two-thirds of the poor lads, whom, as late as November, we were cheering through the streets, are stretched under the soil of the Crimea. When they are disposed of, the cry is "More men, more men!" At the last date, after all the immense clearances to Balaklava and Scutari, there remained more than 3000 sick under the hospital marquees in the camp,—no light burden in the probable event of any active movements. The poor fellows fall sick by as certain and inevitable a recipe as any to be found in medicine, or husbandry, or other physical science. Yet hundreds of veteran officers, who share the hardships of their men, lament in vain the merciless regime of an ignorantocracy. We confess that we cannot look at the horrors of Balaklava and Inkermann as we once did, for it is plainly better that man and horse should die gloriously, selling their lives dear, and affording a spectacle to the world, than that they should perish unseen, unperished, unnamed, almost unnumbered—for it has come to that. We confess, when we are told, that the British cavalry is no more, that the horses, after gnawing one another's manes and have most of them perished on the fatal route to the camp, some in the act of dragging their dead comrades out of the way, we do indeed confess that we could wish they who are thus dead had all died in the battle-field, even in some mad charge into the heart of the Russian army.

Then what is to be done? We think Sir De Lacy Evans has answered this question for us in a most speaking manner. When he could no longer share the hardships of his men—he who could no longer mount his horse, show himself every where, and see things with his own eyes, he would no longer seek honour at the cost of truth and his country. He would no longer attempt to fill the hollow name and idle figure of a general. Now, are we to sacrifice what remains of the 50,000 sent already, and the 20,000 or 30,000 more told off for the Crimea, to a name that, by the concurrent and uncontradicted testimony of the whole army, is only a name, and even worse than a name? The command of the British army before Sebastopol is worse than a mere name when its apathy, recklessness, fatal delays, and utter want of provision, are considered by the common sense and experience of every practical man in the army, and when it is deliberately asserted by officers of distinction that the army might just as well be commanded by its sergeants as by the men who pretend to command it. We are aware that it is a painful act to supersede brave and loyal men, full of honours and years—none would feel the pain of it more acutely than ourselves; we are aware that, besides the violence to the feelings, there is a certain inconvenience in change; but, if the noble ship is to be saved at all, it must be by sending its masts overboard, to substitute jury masts, at whatever design, or damage, or risk. No considerations must now be permitted to stand in the way. The *Marathon*, the *Thermopylae*, the *Salut*, these modern times; and a *Salut* years will look back on the present struggle as we look back on those and some other cardinal points in the history of the world. Surely, there are men in this country, or in the army in the Crimea, who can fight a battle and manage a siege or a campaign. If there are, let all the flagrant rules of the Horse Guards be cast away with the 10,000 tawdry uniforms that lie in rags on the surface of the Crimea, and let the working soldier, the tried and proved commander, under whatever name, be put at the head of the army. If there was ever a ministry that had its path open for such a measure, it is the present, which put off the war as long as it could, even against the unanimous voice of the people, calling to arms. Government surely has the game in its own hands, and is bound by no respect of persons. All that is wanted is that moral courage without which neither great armies, nor good causes, nor powerful empires, can be saved.

At the present moment our poor fellows are perishing before Sebastopol by hundreds, from famine, from exposure, and from disease in many appalling forms, while the means of sustenance, of shelter, and of remedy, are stored within eight miles of the spot in which this dismal tragedy is enacted. There is no longer any use in concealing or mitigating the truth:—the men are perishing for the want of common-forgiveness upon the part of those who should be responsible for their safety. Fifteen thousand British soldiers in the prime of their strength—in the hey-day of life—disciplined men, who would not have turned from the face of a human enemy, let him come in whatever shape he might, have been laid low by official incompetence and procrastination at home and in the field.

By the "staff" of an army is meant, as most readers are aware, that select body of officers which is charged with the duty of giving effect to the orders and dispositions of the commander. They are his eyes, his ears, and his hands; they furnish him with much of his daily knowledge; they are instruments for developing his conceptions, and they represent, in fact, the intermediate machinery through which the impulse emanating from the chief commander is communicated to the army. Now, there can be nothing unreasonable in the presumption that men discharging such functions in a manner satisfactory to the general deserve special notice. Duties of this kind are clearly of a higher order than those of ordinary regimental service.

Here, however, comes the vital point of the question. It is alleged, or, as we may say well, it is an incontestable fact, that the appointment of staff officers is not made to depend on professional qualifications. Officers are put on the staff, not because they have received a special education, or because they have given proof of military ability, but frequently because of their aristocratic connections, or in pursuance of favour made or interest acquired through some process or other.

We have purposely neglected the single object of efficiency in the management of our army; there are plenty of good men and true in all ranks; there are men who have seen plenty of service in our Indian and other wars; there are men who would distinguish themselves whenever the opportunity was allowed them; there are men who must make the army their profession, and who have nothing to retire to when they leave it, and no hope of distinction, or happiness out of it; yet all this staff for field marshals is absolutely rejected in the management of our army. When a barbarian builds his hovel in a ruin he works into his rough walls an inscription turned upside down, a bas-relief with its face inwards, a statue dejected and a capital defoliated, to fit the accidental vacancy. Such is the rude masonry of the British army. The military genius or devoted, the poor fellow who dreams to little purpose of *Marathon*, and has been at the pains to study

the victories of Marlborough and the difficulties of Wellington, is soon built into his regiment, with his corners knocked off and his face turned inwards. There he lies, to rise, if it may be, in the order of seniority and money; but no study, no courage, no promptitude, no soldierlike qualities whatever, will assist him in a competition where the battle is expressly not to the strong, but to the wealthy and noble.—Jan. 5th.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Tuesday, 12th December.

On Tuesday the Session of Parliament was opened by the Queen, with the usual State formalities. The day being unusually fine and genial for the season, a large concourse of persons were assembled in St. James's Park and Parliament-street, by whom the Queen and Prince Consort were cheered in their progress. The interior of the House of Peers was as crowded as on all similar occasions, the great bulk of those present being peers and the younger members of their families, all of whom were attired in most becoming morning costume. Before one o'clock every seat, except those in the front rows reserved for the peers, was occupied, and the attendants were indefatigable in their exertions to accommodate the later arrivals. The strangers' gallery, fronting the throne, and the side galleries, were also crowded with ladies, and the aspect of the House by the time the Queen's arrival was expected was extremely brilliant.

The corps diplomatique, who are usually placed on the benches behind the throne, to the right of the throne, presented a striking display of the gorgeous state dresses, with crosses, stars, and ribbons of almost every order in Europe. The only exception was the Minister for the United States, who was in plain morning costume. The Queen, accompanied by the Prince Consort, and preceded by the heralds, pursuivants, and great officers of state, entered the House at a quarter past two o'clock. There was no firing of guns, and no fanfare of trumpets; the only noise being occasioned by the rustle of a thousand dresses and waving plumes, as the assemblage rose at the entrance of the Queen. After a brief pause during which the great officers of state grouped themselves around the throne,—the Lord Chancellor taking his place near the Earl of Winchester, who bore the cap of maintenance, on her right; the Earl of Aberdeen, with the sword of state, on the left; the Marquis of Lansdowne, with the crown, in front; and the Mistress of the Robes and other ladies in attendance immediately behind the throne,—Sir Augustus Clifford was directed to summon the House of Commons to the bar, and in a few minutes the Speaker, with Lord John Russell on his right, and a whole flood of members, poured into the house, and with much less struggling and confusion than usual, took their places before the bar. The Lord Chancellor then, kneeling, presented the Speech to the Queen, who read it.

The Queen, at her Majesty's request, to the brave tried the speech, and in common, French, to cement still more closely the union which happily subsists between the two nations.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I have called you together at this unusual period of the year, in order that, by your assistance, I may take such measures as will enable me to prosecute the great war in which we are engaged with the utmost vigour and effect. This assistance I know will be readily given; for I cannot doubt that you share my conviction of the necessity of making no effort to augment my forces now engaged in the Crimea. The exertions they have made, and the victories they have obtained, are not exceeded in the brightest pages of our history, and have filled me with admiration and gratitude.

"It is with satisfaction that I inform you that, together with the Emperor of the French, I have concluded a treaty of alliance with the Emperor of Austria, from which I anticipate important advantages to the common cause.

"I have also concluded a treaty with the United States of America, by which subjects of long and difficult discussion have been equitably adjusted.

"These treaties will be laid before you.

"Although the prosecution of the war will naturally engage your chief attention, I trust that other matters of great interest and importance to the general welfare will not be neglected.

"I rejoice to observe that the general prosperity of my subjects remains uninterrupted. The state of the revenue affords me entire satisfaction; and I trust that by your wisdom and prudence you will continue to promote the progress of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,—In the estimates which will be presented to you I trust you will find that ample provision has been made for the exigencies of the public service.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I rely with confidence on your patriotism and public spirit. I feel assured that in the momentous contest in which we are engaged you will exhibit to the world the example of a united people. Thus shall we obtain the respect of other nations, and may I trust by the blessing of God we shall bring the war to a successful termination."

Immediately after the reading of the speech, the Queen rose and quitted the House, and the brilliant assemblage broke up. The whole ceremony did not last more than five minutes.

Their lordships having adjourned during pleasure, reassembled again at five o'clock. Most of the ministers were present, and the opposition benches were also unusually full, all the leaders on both sides being in attendance. The galleries were thronged with ladies, and the whole space in front of the throne and behind the woodwork, by courtesy supposed to be "without the house," was occupied by members of the House of Commons and other strangers.

General Montebello has arrived. It is asserted that Liprandi's corps has abandoned the heights of Balaklava to rejoin the Russian army which has taken position north of the Chernaya.

Four English steamers (the Canada, Ticonderoga, Thames, and Niagara), with 5,016 French troops on board, have arrived at Constantinople en route to the Crimea.

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH.

Vienna, December 17.

Advices from the seat of war state that the Russians have abandoned their first line of defence before Sebastopol, and have retired behind the Chernaya,—with what object is not known.

(From the Morning Chronicle of Monday December 18.)

9 30 a.m.
THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.
BY SUBMARINE AND BRITISH TELEGRAPH.
(From our Paris Correspondent.)

Paris, Monday, December 18.
The Monitor has the following:—
Sebastopol, December 9.
PRUSSIA.

(FROM OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.)
Berlin, Sunday, 10c. 17.
The Austrian, English, and French envoys separately presented yesterday to Baron Montebello the ratified treaty of the 2nd December, with separate notes inviting the adherence of Prussia thereto.

(BY SUBMARINE AND BRITISH TELEGRAPH.)
(FROM OUR VIENNA CORRESPONDENT.)
Vienna, Thursday, Dec. 14.
Under date of Constantinople, December 4, the Presse publishes the following:—

"The Russians have been driven back their second line of defence. They have abandoned the quarantine battery. They removed the guns to the ships.

"The Duke of Cambridge is still unwell.
"Prince Napoleon returns shortly to the Crimea.

Two thousand British troops passed the Bosphorus for the Crimea on the 2nd December.

Trebizond, December 2.
The Turkish camp at Tschuruk-su is to be removed to Batumi.

(BY SUBMARINE AND BRITISH TELEGRAPH.)
(FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)
Paris, Friday, December 15.
Advices from Marseilles announce the arrival at that port of the Sinai, which left Constantinople on the 5th December.

Advices from the Crimea announce that batteries of thirty guns had been erected close to Sebastopol.

Great precautions had been taken against the Russian fire directed against 92 fuses (fusées) which had been landed to set fire to the Russian fleet.

The garrison of Eupatoria has been reinforced by two battalions.

The Duke of Cambridge was to return to Balaklava.

It was reported that 60,000 Russians had passed into the Crimea by way of Perekop; also that an engagement had taken place between a Russian corps and an English detachment. The latter is said to have pursued the Russians into the very town.

(BY SUBMARINE AND BRITISH TELEGRAPH.)
(FROM OUR VIENNA CORRESPONDENT.)
Vienna, Friday, Dec. 15.
Advices have been received here from Constantinople of the 7th December.

The Russians made a sortie against the French lines on the 5th.

Eight divisions of the line, under General Forcy, repulsed them with great loss.

The French are arming batteries with guns from the Henri IV.

Guyon, Haslam Pasha, and ten other officers go from Erzerum to the Crimea.

(FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)
Paris, Saturday, December 16.
The Monitor publishes advices from the Crimea, dated the 7th December.

The batteries had been re-established, and were to re-open their fire in three days.

The Allies were entrenched in a formidable manner, and were easily and regularly supplied with provisions.

On the 6th two Russian steamers came out under the protection of the batteries and exchanged shots with two small French steamers, but without hitting them.

Some English frigates came up and protected them.

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.
(From Reynolds's Newspaper, December 17.)
The besieged and besiegers in the Crimea, each seem waiting the most favourable opportunity for attack. Prince Menschikoff has received orders to drive the allies into the sea at any cost, whilst the English and French are daily receiving large reinforcements. We may soon expect news of another sanguinary battle.

Omar Pasha with 30,000 men is ordered to the Crimea, and is probably there by this time. The Duke of Cambridge is at Constantinople, and it is said suffering under incipient symptoms of the family complaint,—madness. He will not return to the army. The state of the weather in the Crimea is at this moment the most important fact connected with the progress of the siege and the position of the allied armies.

To take Sebastopol is one thing, but to defeat the Russian forces in the Crimea is another; and the mere capture of the town would afford the allies no decisive triumph, and perhaps hardly a secure asylum, unless they had also broken the strength of the Russian army by which it is defended. Whether that result is to be obtained by an assault on the place, by a general action under the walls, or by field operations in the Crimea when the season is more advanced, we cannot venture to predict; but it is evident that if the enemy can be forced to accept a battle, and to undergo a defeat fatal to his army, the resistance of Sebastopol could not be prolonged. It is stated in a French journal of the siege that our works on the right are gradually advancing, so as to leave but a narrow passage of communication on the north side, and measure by measure to be taken to complete the investment of the place. The position of the allied armies is one of difficulty, but it is the glory of the art of war to surmount such difficulties.

The following telegraphic despatches have been published during the week:—
"MARSEILLE, Dec. 9.
"The Thabor has arrived to-day, with accounts from Constantinople to the 30th ultimo. The Duke of Cambridge had arrived in that capital on the 28th. General Sir de Lacy Evans had left for Malta, on his return to England. The Russians have divided their forces; one part, commanded by Prince Menschikoff, keeps near the fortress of the North; the other, under the orders of Prince Gortschakoff, is at Simpheropol. General Plate had arrived from Algiers with troops, and Manicki Pasha from Egypt with 22,000 men. Five thousand more Egyptians are expected. On the 23rd the allies carried a height near Sebastopol, and spiked some guns, since which there has been no engagement with the enemy. Considerable purchases have been made at Constantinople of materials for wintering, and for providing the allied troops with barrack accommodation. The reinforcements that have arrived are considerable enough to allow the allies to give battle to the enemy, which it is thought will be done very shortly. The Russians are suffering much from want of provisions; their reinforcements are without shelter, and they are decimated by disease and bad management."

The Monitor of Tuesday publishes the following:—

"Bucharest, December 11.
"By the arrival at Varna of the Europa, we have news from Sebastopol of the 7th. A great movement of the enemy between the town and the north of the bay was observable. The investment of the place was nearly complete. Four French regiments and numerous reinforcements had arrived. The new siege guns from the allied fleets had not been got into position. This morning Omar Pasha left Bucharest for Varna, where preparations are actively made to embark the remainder of the nineteen Turkish battalions, some of which have already gone to the Crimea."

The Monitor of Tuesday contained the following from General Canrobert:—
"Camp before Sebastopol, December 3.
"Rain is falling in torrents. Our roads are cut up, our trenches filled with water, and our siege operations, as well as all our works, remain in a state of suspension. The enemy remains immovable for the same reason as ourselves. In spite of these trials the spirit of all is excellent; and we remain firm, and ready to resume our operations as soon as ever the weather and the state of the roads will allow us to stir. General de Montebello arrived on the 5th at Constantinople, and left the next day for the Crimea. The health of Prince Napoleon was improving."

We have received by way of Berlin the following intelligence, dated St. Petersburg, the 10th instant:—
"Prince Menschikoff announces that on 4th of December nothing new had occurred before Sebastopol, except some trifling sorties on our (the Russian) side, without success."

"Trieste, December 13.
"The packet which left Constantinople on the 4th has just arrived. The accounts from Sebastopol state that the allied armies were occupied in preparing their barracks to winter in the Crimea. On the 2nd 20,000 English soldiers passed through the Bosphorus to reinforce the English army. The Duke of Cambridge was still ill, and confined to his bed."

"Constantinople, Dec. 4.
"Six vessels, full of troops left yesterday for the Crimea."

A despatch from Balaklava, through Varna, has been received at Vienna, stating that Lord Raglan has caused some siege pieces to be embarked on board the fleet, for the purpose of forcing the port of Odessa and using it as a winter station for the fleets. The despatch is without date, and has not as yet been confirmed.

DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.
(From the London Gazette Extraordinary, of WAR DEPARTMENT.)
10 a.m., December 11, 1854.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle has this day received despatches and enclosures, of which the following are the substance:—
"The Duke of Raglan, G.C.B.:
"Before Sebastopol, Nov. 23, 1854."

"My Lord Duke.—The Russian advanced posts in front of our left attack having taken up a position which rendered our troops in the trenches, and on the ground before the batteries, and at the same time took in reverse the French troops working in their own trenches, which was made to me both by the Duke of Raglan and by the Duke of Cambridge, I directed the Duke of Cambridge to send a detachment of the 1st Battalion of the Buffs, a detachment of the 2nd Battalion of the Buffs, and a detachment of the 3rd Battalion of the Buffs, to dislodge the enemy; and this service was performed most gallantly and effectively, but at some loss both in killed and wounded, and in the loss of some of the life of Lieutenant Colonel Tryon, who rendered himself conspicuous on the occasion, was considered a most promising officer, and held in the highest estimation by all. The Russians attempted several times to re-establish themselves on the ground before the batteries, but they were instantly repulsed by Lieutenant Colonel Tryon, the senior surviving officer of the party, and it now remains in our possession. Brigadier-General Sir John Campbell speaks highly of the conduct of the detachment, and of Lieutenant Colonel Tryon, who was directed to send a detachment of the 1st Battalion of the Buffs, a detachment of the 2nd Battalion of the Buffs, and a detachment of the 3rd Battalion of the Buffs, to dislodge the enemy; and this service was performed most gallantly and effectively, but at some loss both in killed and wounded, and in the loss of some of the life of Lieutenant Colonel Tryon, who rendered himself conspicuous on the occasion, was considered a most promising officer, and held in the highest estimation by all. 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